

School Accountability Committee—SAC
Chipeta Elementary School
April 2, 2019

Attendance:

Sarah Scott
Julie Johnson
Kristie Cichello
Amanda Obringer
Jamie Wright
Alana Gregory
Yann Ulrich
Elissa Brost
Jenny Cramer
Janel Crisp
Kate Herdejurgen
Scott Winter
Megan MacMillan
Jennifer Layher

A. Call to Order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Welcome

C. Minutes from March 12, 2019 approved.

D. Administration

Guest: Mr. Yann Ulrich, Principal at Holmes Middle School

New Principal at Holmes for 2019 – 2020: Tony Karr, the current principal at Lewis-Palmer High school in District 38.

From Mr. Ulrich: Next Generation Learning: Holmes has gone through a lot of trial and error in figuring things out. For example, flipped classrooms didn't work very well with middle schoolers. While some students can use choice to direct their learning many students need more structure. They have a main focus on competency-based instruction as a foundation and using that with other tools to support student learning. Students take four core classes and 2 exploratory classes each day and then go back to one of their core classes at the end of each day. Homework is not just about completion, but about how well students are learning. A student cannot earn an "A" simply turning in an assignment. High schools are starting to look at competency-based learning as well.

Question to Mr. Ulrich: How has learning in the classroom changed as you have moved toward competency-based learning?

From Mr. Ulrich: We must make sure we aren't just teaching, but that the kids are learning. We are giving the students some voice in their learning. Looking at ways to implement routine reflection on their work and learning. It is getting better, but it can improve.

Holmes enrollment: Highest in past years was 821, enrollment this year is 668 and the ideal enrollment is between 685 and 700. Two teachers that teach exploratory classes teach from a cart and change classrooms during the day, but classes are not too full. Typical class size is 29:1 (district ratio is 30:1). Smallest class is 19 and the largest is a math class at 34.

How many students choice in to Holmes: Have signed 50 permits for 2019 – 2020.

Question: How would you counter the perception that the Eagleview Arts Academy program is more hands on and smaller to address need as opposed to Holmes?

Answer: Holmes does a lot of project based learning such as Night of the Notables and the Passion Project and the Presentation of Learning. Holmes offers these opportunities, but they are not marketed that way. The only learning opportunity they have that not all students participate in is Gift and Talented.

Question: How does Holmes work with kids that need additional help and support?

Answer: Try to keep classroom differential somewhat narrow, so the teacher doesn't need to accommodate a vast range of abilities. Offer intervention in math and reading as exploratory classes.

Question: So if you have a student who struggles to read, but is a solid thinker, how do you accommodate them?

Answer: Use a body of evidence to determine placement including CMAS, Galileo and teacher recommendations.

Question: What are the strengths of Holmes?

Answer: Holmes uses the Middle School model in all three grades. Sixth grade has eight teachers, half of the students see four and the other half see the other four. The teachers get to know each student and collaborate with other teachers to know the student outside their subject area. This is in contrast to the Junior High model where a teacher will only know a student in that one subject. Also, Holmes has advanced courses in all core subjects. Next year there will be advanced classes in math and language arts, and they will diversity in science and social studies.

Holmes is part of the Next Generation Learning initiative.

Holmes book of the year. It is their version of the Battle of the Books encourages kids to read. They also have spelling bee and geography bee.

Focus on the whole child, not just the academic piece. They have problem solving meetings where students that are not getting along are brought together to have a conversation to problem solve.

Diversity: Holmes does not have a lot of cultural diversity, but it does have a lot of socio-economic diversity. Students are interacting with students outside of their “group.”

Very strong music department. Orchestra teacher is offering a very popular beginning guitar option.

Academic achievement: Growth is very strong.

Student initiated clubs: For example, Pokemon club, Harry Potter, Mountain Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, etc. The students come up with the idea and find a staff sponsor.

Holmes is always working on a lot of things. One thing is trying to create opportunities and encouraging teachers who are hesitant to become comfortable with Next Generation learning and allowing students choice. Student interaction with adults is in a good place having moved from top down “I am the teacher, hear me roar,” to allowing students to have the conversation.

Single and double accelerated math: Placement determined based on scores and teacher recommendation. This year there are two full classes of double accelerated math.

Question from Mr. Ulrich to SAC: How can we convince families that choice into Eagleview to go to Holmes?

Answer: Eagleview does a huge sales pitch. Holmes kids are Holmes’ best selling point. Have a Hawk Night around permit opening, strategic timing is important. Send invitations to shadow.

Budget

Fund 10: The states gives funding to the district (per pupil funding) and then the district gives funding to our school. \$38,000 allocated for instruction and \$7,000 is non-instructional. Items such as printing are on both sides. Printing for classroom learning is instructional. Printing brochures is non-instructional. Money can be moved from non-instructional to instructional, but not the other way around. Current budget print-out shows a deficit in travel and registration. That is being corrected, but there is a lag and it isn’t showing corrected yet.

74 accounts: These are the in and out accounts. Field trip money goes to grade level accounts and then goes out to the organization. PTA account has paid Chipeta for the shade structure, but it hasn’t been paid out yet. Some families do an annual donation and that money it put in a 74 account until it is paid out.

We are working hard to spend out money in line with our beliefs about teaching and learning.

Officers

By voice vote, the three people currently serving as officers were approved to continue serving in these rolls.

Amanda Obringer: President

Alana Gregory: Vice President

Jennifer Layher: Secretary